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brothers, and had no difficulty in clearing a
almost every line at prices which, considering
the bare state of all the colonial markets for

must be considered moderate—
in layers, ranging from 8½d.
in almonds, 2s. 2d.; soft shell
celona nuts, 6d.—all duty paid.
d, and sold, some large parcels
ay, Hyacinth, and Kuhlamba.
ried from common to ordinary
ught £7 5s. to £8 per chest.

to-day have been the Sorata, isco, with 7421 sacks of wheat; from Mauritius, with 6276 bags

bers from San Francisco to the the *Daily Alta California* reports

old price to-day at New York was 127%, at the Board at 78%, and over the counter

ented no material change to-day. The generally firm at the last quotations of the North brought down 78,805 dollars in P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamship Golden City to the last instant. There was a feeling among circles of New York, caused by the operations of the Treasury in the gold market only a few days ago, that the market was to go up or down, caused much dissatisfaction. *New York Commercial Advertiser* remarks: "That the administration of the affairs of Secretary McCulloch, has excited unfriendly

est, and the American and European have been as much deceived as the producer. It is, impossible to conceal the fact that at and unanimous in its complaints against the Treasury gold sales are conducted. The entirely through one broker, a relative of ment. During the last two weeks about gold has been sold in this way, at the order cent. Such large operations leave a which it is very naturally felt should not be m. The partiality shown by the Secretary reflections from which it is most desirable should be free.

the New York Assay Office for three months

	December.	January.	February.
	dollars.	dollars.	dollars.
...	645,000	475,000	1,032,000
...	9,000	7,000	10,000
...	225,000	200,000	125,000
...	498,000	312,000	976,000

and deal of gold from California passed into
 and that the coin increased 1,787,090 dollars
 particularly in February, when exchange
 demand for export small. The Customs
 was as follows:—

	1865.	1866.
	dollars.	dollars.
...	4,276,399 29	12,469,665 29

...	4,523,314 34	12,018,539 57
...	9,099,613 63	21,488,534 96

the Treasury was more than revised. Some swell the sales in addition to the sums paid.

patches give the passage of the Loan Bill, vision for the very gradual contraction of money, viz., not over 4,000,000 dollars per month Bank notes increase for the present month, the contractible tendency is not vary, in his reply to Congress, reiterates his

kets, as usual on Saturday, the volume of

than usual. We notice a few transactions. The receipts are 3651 sacks wheat; 106 963 sacks barley. The exports to-day were 11,043 sacks wheat. The movement is large. Some transactions for export have the Rattler is about ready for China with hand, at quotations. We quote Golden Age, Genesee, and City Mills at 7 dollars for ; Commercial in quarter sacks at 7 dollars; Sulsun at 7 dollars; Orange and Vineyard dollars 62½ cents, as per style of package at 7 dollars 25 cents for extra in quarter-

50 sacks choice brewing, from wharf, at 98
50 firkins Eastern, via Isthmus, private—
sacks Central American, at 84 cents per lb.
it. on our yesterday's quotations.
bags (50 lbs. each) Calcutta, private.
sacks Carmen Island, ex L. B. Lunt, private.
The vessels have sailed for the
colonies:—The General Cobb, for
with 13,375 sacks of barley and
wheat: to the Pembroke-shire. for

046 sacks of wheat; the Prince of Wales, with 3621 sacks of wheat; the Prince of Wales, with 1536 quarter-sacks of wheat. The latest advices also report the Adelaide, Kedar, and Vrienschap colonies. Freight rates are low, and to 40s. per ton.

very good and valid reasons for the attempt which is to be made this summer to lay a submarine telegraph cable between Newfoundland and Newfoundland will be successes and failures of the past are so many to the new company. That is not from experience is always the case. The Atlantic cable have a very dear-bought experience to the future. The last attempt failed,

in the construction of the cable
the hauling in apparatus was de-
that this defect has been remedied,
possible that the present year will
and consummation of an Anglo-
ph in full and successful working

Atlantic last July. According to reports from the electricians at Valencia, the cable already laid remains perfect. Statements of Captain Anderson and J. Moriarty, K.N., have accurately confirmed the position of the broken end. No doubt can be felt as to the practicability of the proposed repairs. Together with this work of repair, it is proposed to undertake that of laying a new cable, and inasmuch as it is certain that the business which will be done by a company affording the means

communication between the United States and Europe would far exceed the capabilities of the enterprise in its new form consisting of a twofold profit. The company is, however, a company which we are not disposed to dwell on, but beyond all pecuniary profits from the establishment of daily news between Great Britain and America, the achievement of success in the new communication, deserves more prominence.

given to it. Hitherto, it is wholly non-American, except Cyrus W. Field, of the Atlantic Telegraph, whose coldness and indifference has been a great obstacle to the enterprise. But now that distinguished and successful American, George Peabody, on the board of directors, and Julius Morgan, another American, well known on both sides of the Atlantic, are interested in it. Such names as these are a tower of strength; and we, as Americans, are bound to support them.

association of those names with the can Telegraph Company a guarantee in *Evening Sun*, March 19.

Superstition has attributed mar-
natural effects to various stones, and
has subscribed and adhered to them
faith *opiniatre*, in a degree propor-
of reason. Thus, in the ancient
fables held their dusty and venge-
the stone alectoria, so called from

the crop of poultry, alone rendered that other stones imparted divine light, all the coming on of time; that the gods from heaven to earth, and the souls of the damned from hell; that the ring which Moses gave his Egyptian slave, never forget him; that the ring of Vesemond, and that of Gyges rendered the dead to these may be added the story of the ring long preserved with great veneration in the Abbey. This was supposed to

...John was thought to be very
gent to a mill one day, and the miller
e people say you are a fool ! Now.

know, and what you don't know,"
John, "I know millers' hogs are
at's well, John. Now what don't
I don't know whose corn fate 'em!"

au/nla.news-page

SKETCHES FROM JAMAICA.

The following picture of everyday life in the West Indies, and other matters, from the pen of the special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, appeared in that journal, of March 19th, under date, "Kingston, February 21st," the writer says:—

Breaking off for the present my report of what is being done by the Royal Commission at Spanish Town, I will give some account of what I have been doing elsewhere. The almanac has the reputation of being as truthful as most books, and I find on consulting it that the 21st of January was a month ago. But if I have been no more than just one calendar month in the island of Jamaica, it would seem that months in this part of the world are as long as the miles which, in some countries far away, more than quadruple the English standard of yards. The plain truth is that, though the actual number of days in a Jamaica month may be about the same as with us in the mother country, each particular day out here is a good deal longer. As early as 6 o'clock, according to an old Jamaican custom, coffee is brought with your boots, or freshly washed shoes, to the green Jamaica door of the bedroom in which, by that time of the morning, you may be reasonably supposed to have arrived at an advanced stage of attire. And, as bathing and dressing are rather slow operations in the tropics, this will imply that you arose and crept forth from your mosquito-curtained couch at 5 of the clock, or a little after. Perhaps you have a long ride before you, with breakfast at the other end of it. Long rides or drives before breakfast are not uncommon things in Jamaica, where nobody thinks of walking half-a-mile in a day; creoles being born to the saddle, as the sparks fly upward. Little children cry aloud in this country for their horses almost as precociously as Gargantua shouted for something to drink. Presuming that the number of original senses is five, horsemanship comes nearer to a sixth sense with Jamaicans than with any other people, except Centaurs. As I have said, long journeys are often made before breakfast—for the six o'clock coffee and toast count as nothing—and I have this day done my twenty-five miles, previously to making a fierce attack at half-past ten on a meal of salt fish and ackee, deep-fried snapper, turtle steak, land-crab, roasted plantains, yam, cassava-cake, mutton, melon, bananas, and a few other trifles such as are seldom absent from the breakfast-table at Blundell Hall.

From a two weeks' jaunt in the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Andrew, Port Royal, St. David, and St. Thomas-in-the-East, I return to my verandah, with its writing-table, a chaos of papers and wilderness of worn-out quills. The division of Jamaica into counties, and the subdivision into parishes, may need a careful note of explanation. The three counties are rather like parish parishes; and, again, by the term "parish" might well be understood a county. The island is divided vertically, and the three unequal parts are named after counties at home, to wit, Cornwall, Middlesex, and Surrey. The largest parish is that of St. Ann, on the north of the central county. This parish, one of the most fertile, and, by deplorable consequence, one of the poorest in Jamaica, contains 461 square miles. Clarendon, Manchester, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Hanover, Trelawney, St. James, Portland, and St. Thomas-in-the-East are large parishes, averaging 300 square miles or more; while three or four on the list are each but a trifle smaller than the parish of St. Ann itself. In St. Thomas-in-the-East I have, with my own eyes seen and with my own ears heard the most convincing evidence of an insurrection such as, if it had not been quickly and firmly met, would not have been the least doubtful, have spread through the island in less than one more day. In other parishes I have had opportunities of seeing the negro as he is—not the fancy article, but the real unsophisticated black; and I have, both in St. Thomas-in-the-East and elsewhere, observed how coffee and sugar—or, as Dr. Underhill says, "a refreshing beverage and its sweetener"—are obtained from the cane-piece and the plantation, and how they are prepared for shipment. On the 9th day of this month, after seeing my parcel for England in safe hands on board the mail steamer which started punctually at 5 a.m., I got underway for a land-cruise in the coffee-growing district of Port Royal. The Port Royal coffee has a well-established character in the European market, and commands almost as high a price as Mocha, being even preferred by many judicious tasters to the Eastern berry. The brands of Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Cater are especially famous, inasmuch as their coffee grows at a greater height than any other coffee in Jamaica, and the fine mountain coffee is esteemed in proportion to the number of feet at which it is gathered above the level of the sea. As a distinctive sign of the high-grown berry, beside its compact roundness of shape, is the depth of its bluish tint, it is not at all surprising that the coffee of less favoured growth should be blacked, and this is very commonly done by blacking, the natural grey of the berry assisting the tincture. I do not think this rogery is practised in Jamaica, where adulteration is backward, or perhaps has declined. But I have seen a sample of coloured coffee from one of the Spanish islands. My first visit was to Pleasant Hill, the Port Royal mountain, and my start thither from Kingston was, as I have said, soon after sunrise, some twelve days ago. There is reason, quite as much as in the roasting of eggs, for these early excursions into Jamaica. When "the two brothers and their murdered man" set forth on that tragical ride told by Boccaccio, and sung by Keats, they were careful to be well upon their road "while cold was in the sky." There is little or no cold in any sky that overhangs the plains or the Antilles; but there is less heat before 7 in the morning than there is afterwards, and I had to drive nine miles across a perfect frying-pan of a plain in order to reach the spot where my saddle-horse was awaiting his rider. Everybody whose pleasure or business takes him to and fro between Kingston and the mountains makes "the Gardens" a halting-place. The road for wheels ends there or thereabouts, and the rest of the journey to Creighton, or Newcastle, to Clifton Mount, to Flamstead, or where-not, cannot well be performed except in the saddle; though I have heard of ladies being carried up in litters. The ascent from Kingston to the Gardens is gently gradual, the rise in the nine miles being about 600 feet. Fairly out of the town and its deep sand tracks, the road is a good road, and a pair of reasonably-clever horses, for which the island is famed, will spin the light carriage to Mr. Lazarus's comprehensive store in an hour, with five minutes to spare. The light carriage in question is called a buggy, and, with a few modifications of shape and size, it is the universal carriage of Jamaica. It is like a covered trotting-chair, with four spider-wheels, made of so tough a wood that their slightness is

no drawback to a long and lonely jaunt over the roughest ways of the island. I have, indeed, travelled on a "corduroy" road through a poisonous forest-swamp, where the looseness of a tire or the loss of a linchpin would have entailed consequences little short of fatal. But this, as the enthusiasts say, is a digression. There are no swamps or corduroy roads on the Liguanea plain, between Kingston and the Gardens. Remember, by-the-by, to pronounce Liguanea "Lig-ua-na." It is one long, hot, hard, glaring white road, with refreshing scenery nevertheless on either side. The hedges for a certain distance out of Kingston are made up of different kinds of cactus, some sprawling up to a great height, others growing low, of which are the broad, flat, oval-bladed variety, bearing certain white spots among its prickles. These spots, on close inspection, are found to be the cocoons of a small insect; and when they are gathered and carefully picked and dried, they are the cochineal, from which we get one of our most valuable dyes. One of them, taken fresh from the plant and smashed on a hard surface, will leave a bright red or purple stain. A little off the road I am sketching lies the Racecourse and the U-Camp, where Englishmen play cricket; as where will they not? The officers of the Duncan and other ships stationed at Port Royal are too far from the well-kept turf of the U-Camp to practise on that ground; but they "will not be denied," and, rather than keep up their play, resort to the far more useful intentions, namely, 32-pounder shot, so severely covered with gravel that it is difficult to find a place anywhere for pitching the wickets. But all the matches are played on the excellent ground of the U-Camp, which is just outside Kingston, and must not be confused with the camp of Newcastle, which picturesquely dots the side of a mountain, and is not less than four thousand feet above the sea. Pen residences, occupied by the families of the wealthy class of Kingston merchants and lawyers, are to the right and left of the road across the plains; and as this road begins to wind about the base of the mountain range, to approach the wooden village of Gordonstown, the scenery grows more and more picturesque. The Hope River, from which the water-supply of Kingston is obtained, adds beauty to the landscape, through which it rushes and curls among the roots of trees and over grey boulders, some worthy the name of rocks rather than of stones. Except this narrow river channel and a few overhanging cliffs, there is little nakedness in the wild scenery here or elsewhere throughout the island. Mountains are covered to the tops of their highest peaks with vegetation, and "ruinate" lands can hardly be distinguished by a stranger's eye from lands under cultivation. But, as we come near Gordonstown, turning sharply to get on a stone bridge, we have in front of us a sheer wall of rock several hundreds of feet high, and as craggy as any precipice need be. The top is richly overgrown with the guinea grass, which is highly prized in Jamaica as a pasture untried throughout the world, and, growing as it often does on such perilous places, this same guinea grass lures horses, mules and other cattle to destruction. From the Gardens to Pleasant-hill the ride is a long one, by ways both steep and narrow. On the occasion of my visit, Mr. Henderson, the proprietor of the Pleasant Hill and Berwick estates, distant from each other about five miles, accompanied me. We had thirteen miles to travel, through scenery which well repaid the difficulty of the road. Of the fact—in itself no matter of interest—that we passed through or within sight of the most famous coffee-fields in Jamaica, I confess that I took less note at the time than I look of the superb changes of view which every zigzag turn laid open on one side or in front of us. The paths were in good condition, though often very narrow, and oftenest so when the precipice beneath was deepest and least guarded by projecting shrubs or trees. Once, as my companion rode in advance, he stretched forth his arm so that, allowing his whip to drop negligently into a perpendicular line, it hung over the edge of our path; and then he said, very coolly, "This is a sheer fall of a thousand feet." On we went climbing first through Charlottenberg, a fine coffee property, in good cultivation, belonging to a Mr. Casserly. Having mounted to Content Gap, and gained the top of the mountain, we were ascending a prospect grand and beautiful beyond description burst upon our view. I pulled up my horse, ready as he was to descend upon the other side of the gap, and gazed for some minutes on the scene, asking the name of this peak and that. But Mr. Henderson, with an affection for the subject of coffee which I cordially forgive, brought in the berry at each point. He showed me the valley of the Yallahs, with its wild and broken river; but he showed me also the barbeques, where coffee is dried. He pointed out Pen-hill, and Speldon, and Green Valley, and Monklands and Mount Lebanon, and Mount Hybla, and Sherwood Forest, and Radnor, and Berwick, and Windsor—all familiar names, strangely associated here—and he showed me also Clifton Mount, with the Peak of St. Catherine springing grandly above it, to the height of five thousand and seventy feet; but he did not omit the information that the highest coffee grew on Windsor plantations, and the next highest on Radnor, and the next on Clifton Mount. His modesty did not allow him to tell me that a crop which will hold its own with any in the market is usually gathered on his own estate of Berwick; but I have since ascertained this to be the case, according to universal opinion. Descending through the passes of Mount Lebanon, with Mr. Henderson's house provokingly in view high up on the summit of the opposite mount, my attention was called to the fine crop of ripening berries on the coffee plants of Mr. Colin Chisholm. We passed a church very prettily situated, and continuing our downward winding away, came in time to the ford of the Yallahs River, near which are situated the works of Mr. Henderson's overseer. Every estate, whether the coffee plant or the sugar cane be grown upon it, has its "great house," where the proprietor or his attorney resides; and the great house of Pleasant Hill is perched on an elevation three thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea. To reach it, thirty-six turns are made on the hill side; but before we began to ascend we rode a little out of the way to see the remains of the old works, swept down by a great flood many years ago. Nothing but a solid square mass of brickwork, built into the sloping earth, remains to tell of a disaster by which the whole aspect of the valley was changed. Jamaica, as its old Indian name, Xamajca, implies, is a land of rivers and springs. At this time of the year many of the watercourses are dried up, and the springs murmur accompaniment to the trickling of marmosid birds, or fall in madriag cascades among the leafy sides of the rocks. But in the rainy season those "dry rivers," as

they are commonly called, are dry no longer; the murmur of the springs becomes a roar, and the cascades take to leaping and plunging in the most disorderly way, instead of trickling, as is their custom now. So it comes about that the houses in Jamaica are built not so strongly, for no strength will stand against the strength of Nature's rage, but with a prudent adaptation to circumstances and needs. If an earthquake is to tumble our house about our ears, or if a hurricane is to level its roof and floor, or if a flood is to sap its walls and bring the whole fabric down, and sweep it clean away, it is best and safest that the house should be low, the roof light, and the walls thin and unsubstantial. These requirements are met by the builders in Jamaica, who seldom build houses with stairs in them, or with a range of rooms over another, or with dark polished floors used formerly to be of mahogany or cedar, but now they are more generally made of pitch-pine from the American continent; though cedar and mahogany doors are still common. The great house of Pleasant Hill is certainly well entitled to bear the name of its site. From the garden in which it stands the view on all sides is magnificent. On one side, the coffee plantations reach a height seven hundred feet above that on which the house stands; on the north is the Blue mountain ridge, and on the south is Chester Vale. Glimpses, too, may be caught of the roads by which there was great cause to fear that the rebels would march on their way from Morant Bay and Port Antonio to Kingston. It is not for a moment to be doubted that, had they not been effectually stopped at Monklands by the 6th Regiment under Colonel Hobbs, they would have passed on through Hagley Gap, or taking the Yallahs Valley, would have poured by Silver-hill into St. George's. Here, and in the little dwellings elsewhere on the hills, as at Flamstead, for example, the ladies must have passed through many hours of dread and suspense; but from all that one now hears they showed admirable courage, that quality being more universal with them than with the men, some of whom were brave enough, but others were too frightened to know what they did. In contrast to the cowardice of a very few white men, such pluck was manifested by Mr. Warrington and others at Morant Bay will be long remembered.

My tour in the mountains of Port Royal, concerning which I shall have more to say in my next letter, was followed, first, by visits to Constant Spring and Temple Hall, two sugar estates in the parish of St. Andrew; and then by a journey to the eastern extremity of the island, broken by a call at Albion estate in the parish of St. David. Of my sugar-making experiences, large as they have now become, I must reserve all that I have gathered for use at some future but not distant day. While stopping at Hordley, the property of Sir Stephen Lushington, whose manager, Mr. James Harrison, had a narrow escape from the rebels on the night of October 12—1 had from this gentleman a vivid account of all that happened in the neighbourhood; and I accompanied him one day to Amity Hall, where Mr. Hire was murdered, and where Mr. Crighton and others received injuries that for a time seemed mortal. The great house of Amity Hall sugar estate is situated on a hill commanding a beautiful prospect of a wide and almost level plain, laid surrounded by hill and wood, and open to the sea in one direction. Eight of the finest sugar estates in Jamaica—in fact, the whole of the famed Constant Spring district—can be seen from the mountain on which the house stands. Before entering that house, I saw the grave of poor Hire, with the spade resting on it, as it was left by the negroes, who gave his remains a savage burial. I am told that a leaden coffin is to be sent out from England, and that his body will be removed thither. The interior of the house, kept for a time in exactly the same state in which the negroes left it, beggars the power of language to describe. Its contents, smashed and pounded to fragments, were only distinguishable as a mixture of mirrors, and china, and picture-frames, and torn papers, and broken chairs, and chipped tables, and books, and book-shelves, and bedding, and bottles, and bludgeons and blood. I picked up a *Cornhill Magazine*. It contained a "Roundabout paper" of Thackeray's, called "Autour du monde Chapeau"; and, getting divided by the first page, I read the terse, well-polished, well-remembered sentences down to the bottom, and turned over, when—fancy being recalled from such pleasant reading to the grim reality of the place in which I stood by a horrible red-dish-brown blotch, the faded stain of blood, spattered on the pamphlet. The next thing I took in hand, not without a half-dread of something coming off on my fingers, was an old number of the *Westminster Review*, with an article on "Religious Revivals." I brought this away with me, not only as a relic of Amity Hall, but as a timely reminder of what has been done for the negro mind by religious revivalism. The burnt bed on which Dr. Crowdie was stretched, sick nearly unto death, when those devils burst into his chamber, was almost the only piece of furniture that retained its shape; and the chaps of furniture were in a few places. The place above was soaped and charred, so that it is marvellous how the house escaped being burned to the ground. I noticed a very curious point in one of the rooms. On a slab or sideboard a quantity of glass had been pounded to a fine dust, which still covered the hard surface of the mahogany; and a six pound bronze weight was left there too. Now, on the most indisputable evidence, I have found that powdered glass is used by the Obeah-man in his poisonous compounds; and I shall have more to say of this fact at another time. Having engaged myself to start on a round of visits with a small party of gentlemen next day, I advised three of them to go up first to Amity Hall and look about as I had done. This they did before breakfast; and their search among the litter on the floors of the different rooms was more interesting and successful than mine had been. The Marquis of Lorn, one of the party, brought a scrap of paper on which poor Hire had begun to make out a list of special constables, and had got down three names only when he must have been disturbed. Mr. Strutt, who has been travelling with Lord Lorn in Hayti—where he and his companion saw nothing more suggestive of the "noble savage" than the scene at Amity Hall—found a letter which Mr. Harrison remembers to have written and dispatched to Mr. Hire on the day of the murder. Here is a copy.

(Copy.)
Hordley, October 12th, 1865.
Dear Sir,—What you are going to do was done by me—hours ago. 200 armed men were met by Dr. Crowdie's boy at Port Morant, waving red and white flags. The ladies are to receive here. The Mackays and Mr. Shortridge are sent for. Volunteers routed, and arms in hands of rebels. I have sent to Bath for the ammunition—there to be destroyed if it cannot reach Hordley.
You will have a nice view to-night, no doubt. I am tired of writing, having been on horseback, &c., nearly all night. Dr. Crowdie very ill, but express can't get further than Morant Bay.
(Signed) JAS. HARRISON.
Augustus H. Esg.

A third documentary relic was half of a long letter in Gordon's handwriting, addressed also to Mr. Hire. After much vituperation of Governor Eyre, Mr. Herschell, the Baron Kettle-hod, and other obnoxious persons, the writer ends his communication with these words: "I have no doubt that in a few months there will be some changes." During our journey, on the day that these little discoveries were made at Amity Hall, we had the pleasure of getting into our possession a clumsily-carved wooden idol, "recently the property," as an auctioneer would say, "of an Obeah-man, deceased"—that is to say, hung. The image, which is about two feet high, is the ugliest little deity I ever saw. Looking upon it as a very fair "loot," the Hon. Henry Callender bore off the uncouth prize, and has now taken it on board his ship, the Duncan, where I have no doubt it will be the object of respect, if not of adoration, by all the gun-room mess.

THE INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH.

(From the Standard, March 19.)

We have heard a great deal of what may be said about the Indo-European telegraph, and are now in a position to hear what the undertaking has to say about itself. The petition of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and the speech of Mr. Crawford in the House of Commons the other night, sufficiently represented the public view of the question; and we have since been placed in possession of the official account of the state and prospects of the line. The document to which we refer is a special report made by Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmid, the superintendent, to the Government of Bombay. The fact which it contains cannot fail to prove a valuable aid to the committee, and pending their deliberations our readers will probably like to learn the practical points connected with the subject.

Two years ago, after the failure of the Red Sea cable, a new means of submarine communication from India westward was found in the Persian Gulf. Under the superintendence of the late Colonel Patrick Stewart the mouth of the Shattul-Arab, and through the active exertions of that able officer a convention was concluded for the use of a land line in course of completion through Asiatic Turkey, from Scutari to Fao. Further, and to provide against accident the cable from Scutari to Fao was laid in March, and the Turkish convention signed in September, 1864. The Turkish Asiatic land line first took messages from the cable in February, 1865; the Persian auxiliary line opened on the following month, too late for the satisfaction of its originator. That intelligent and deservedly popular officer had died at Constantinople on the 16th of the preceding month. Having noticed these facts by way of introduction, Colonel Goldsmid proceeds to examine the line piece by piece, explaining the several defects under which it is worked, pointing out deficiencies, suggesting remedies, and giving us, in every way, the benefit of his experience. A message, he tells us, for dispatch to India, is given to a telegraph company, such as the Electric and International, or Submarine. As a general rule Government has no connection with the London telegraphic offices, and takes no part in a European telegraphic congress, and sends its own ordinary dispatches much in the same way as a private individual. An Indo-European telegram does not, therefore, start from the Government hands at all. In finding its way to India it may take either the Russian or the Turkish line, but the former is principally employed for communications starting from the Continent. Supposing, then, the Turkish line to be adopted, there are several ways of reaching Constantinople. The two, perhaps, most generally used are those by Vienna or Turin. The former transmits its dispatches to destination by Serbia, Wallachia, or such other route as may seem expedient. The latter, choosing the Italian coast line and cable across the lower Adriatic, seeks the Turkish capital by Salonica and the western shores of Marmara. The telegram may consequently be dealt with, more or less, by French, Belgian, Dutch, Prussian, Austrian, Bavarian, minor German, Italian, Serbian, or Wallachian Administrations, before coming into the hands of the Turks at all. A common convention, whether it be of Brussels or Paris, binds the above named, *inter se*, but England has no part in the matter; and the European feeders of the Indo-European telegraph, unprotected by any special rules, are subjected to continental usage and practice as far as Constantinople. Thenceforward the India-going message comes under theegis of a convention called the Indo-Ottoman. By this it is provided with an exclusive wire through Asia as far as Fao, or an alternative of the whole distance from London to Kurrachee. On this part of the route the British authority may inspect, inquire, represent, and remonstrate; but it has no control, and the telegram in Asiatic Turkey is, therefore, in the hands of the mail, of French, unskilled and unsystematic superintendents and signallers, and a poorly qualified executive, except in the lower grades, where there is activity and intelligence, as well as goodwill. At Fao there is a British staff to await the telegram and dispatch it to Kurrachee by cable. Sometimes the message is made to turn off from Bagdad, and proceed by the Turko-Persian frontier at Kharakeen, through Persia to Bushire. Here there is also a British director and staff, whose control is so far exercised that a message may be said commonly to traverse the eleven hundred miles of line in about one hour. But the Persian Government is equally jealous with the Turkish of British superintendence, and delays and even breaks are by no means uncommon. From Fao to Kurrachee and from Bushire to Kurrachee are the only sections of the line over which the British Government have direct control. There are both submarine, and, therefore, however costly, no provision for daily watching. But a special steamer keeps guard over their well-being at Kurrachee; the cable stations at Guadur, Musendun, Bushire, and Fao are supplied with efficient establishments; the director at Kurrachee has his own particular staff; and Colonel Goldsmid bears testimony to the generally efficient working of these arrangements. Referring especially to the land section or alternative line between Kurrachee and Guadur, he is unable to judge of the extent to which this portion of the line is now used, but considers it at any rate a good stand-by in the event of injury to the cable on the Indian side.

Such is the constitution of the Indo-European telegraph service, over which the British Government or its officers exercise no absolute control until the outgoing telegrams to India reach the submarine cable at Fao or Bushire, and no qualified control except in the Persian alternative line. As for home-coming telegrams, they are despatched by Government officials, but fall out of all Government control on reaching Turkish territory, whether at Fao or the Persian frontier at Kharakeen. The obvious remedy for consequent irregularities is what Colonel Goldsmid suggests. The telegram being in the hands of Government on the Indian side, it remains for us to secure special wires or communication through Europe, by convention or written agreement with all Continental States through which traffic to India may pass. To arrange a scheme of the kind, the colonel says, would not be complex, and the matter might almost be settled in a single interview at the respective head-quarters of each Administration. Whether or not a Government office should receive the messages in London is a separate consideration. With Turkey there was a convention when the through traffic commenced; but it referred only to the new line in Asia, and on the European side there were frequent interruptions from Turkey some guarantee for efficiency west as well as east of the Bosphorus, and towards this end Colonel Goldsmid—who had not then succeeded in his mission to Constantinople—following out the line of action commenced by Colonel Stewart, he succeeded in obtaining at least some nominal terms. The Ottoman Administration, he tells us, is pledged, among other important concessions, to give us two special wires, one by Nissa, and one by Valona, and to construct an entirely new line for our telegraph by the former route. Moreover, he saw the scrupulous fulfilment of the engagement made to Colonel Stewart to employ certain capable persons sent out from England; and he further obtained a promise that twenty new telegraphers should be added to the ill-supplied stations in Asia.

Returning to the original convention with Turkey, Colonel Stewart observes that it has not been carried out in accordance with the spirit of the agreement. He believed that the Indo-European telegraph is capable of being rendered so efficient, for special messages, that they might pass to and fro between London and Kurrachee in 54 hours, or 1-100th part of the 24 days which may be allowed for postal communication by the Bombay Overland Mail. At present the average rate of the first five months' working, from March to July, 1865, inclusive, is shown to be—from Kurrachee to Constantinople two days eight hours, and from Constantinople to Kurrachee, two days twenty hours. If the European States worked in conformity with this average, obtained from Mr. Courtenay, the commissioner of the Indian telegraph at Constantinople, messages would take at least five days in reaching India; and this, as Colonel Goldsmid considers too long, as it certainly is in comparison with the capabilities which he points out. And there seems to have been considerable deterioration even in these averages during the succeeding months, both in European and Asiatic Turkey, for which the colonel considers the Ottoman Administration responsible. Mr. Courtenay, in fact, describes things as "going from bad to worse," and the great difficulty to be with Turkey. So disheartened, indeed, is this gentleman with the disagreement between promise and performance that he considers the only remedy to consist in adopting the Russian route as soon as possible. We see no reason, however, why, by perseverance in a judicious pressure, the Porte should not be brought to a sense of its responsibilities in the matter, and inured at least to redeem the promises already made. In addition, a convention with the European Powers is undoubtedly required for the same purpose. As Colonel Goldsmid says, companies are inadequate for the conduct of semi-political negotiations; and proper provisions might have been obtained had this country been represented at the last Congress of Paris. The importance of Government authority in the way of transmission is shown by the fact that messages dispatched by the Government of India, with urgent orders, as may be supposed—notwithstanding all drawbacks, may be made to reach London in twenty-four hours; whereas messages from London, which are all dispatched through non-official channels, never, we believe, attain any extraordinary degree of speed, while ordinary messages on both sides seem simply to take their chance, in many cases being delayed by the mail. These are important facts, demanding the earnest attention of a committee. It would be strange indeed if the resources and influence of this country should fail to secure to their fullest extent advantages made possible by science and practicable by efficient administration.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

Tax minor plants, No. 85, discovered by Mr. C. H. Peters, in America, on September 19th, 1865, has been named *Lo.*

Professor Schnetler has reported, in the *Bibliothèque Universelle* of Geneva, the results of his expedition to the mountains of the Alps, in the neighbourhood of the Matterhorn, and other places, where he has discovered plants, which have led him to conclude that plants under the influence of poison in the same manner as the inferior animals, whose bodies are principally composed of secreted matter. In both cases the poison produces in the protoplasm, or living matter, changes which destroy its contractility and power of moving. Plants and animals resemble each other in very many incidents of their life; and the same applies to the manner of their death. Professor Schnetler describes the effect of poisons upon the sensitive plant, *Barbary nettle*, &c. The Hay Society have just issued to their subscribers the volume of the *Proceedings of the Botanical Society of London*, F.R.S., late President of the Linnean Society, termed by the great Humboldt "the *Bibliothèque des principes*." 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JOHN RAE,
Commissioner for Railways,
Department of Public Works, Railway Branch, Sydney,
24th May, 1886.

Public Secretary's Office,
Brisbane, 24th April, 1886.

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To give healthy, juvenile blood to the complexion, and to

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The medicine they are taken, and for children of all ages

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with the most successful results, and for children of all ages

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FLOORING AND STAIRS.

18 inches wide, 10 1/2 per yard
22 inches wide, 10 1/2 per yard
27 inches wide, 10 1/2 per yard
32 inches wide, 10 1/2 per yard
36 inches wide, 10 1/2 per yard
42 inches wide, 10 1/2 per yard

The above being little more than half price, are now on

SALE upwards of ONE HUNDRED varieties of

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Importers direct from the manufacturer,
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3000 yards cotton tick, 7 1/4, usual price 10 1/4

1000 yards of each ribbon, 12 1/4, usual price 16 1/4

We strongly recommend our flannel, at 21 1/4

Damask napkins, table cloths, linens and shoddy

Furniture Chaise, 7 1/4, worth 10.

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SHEEP AND CATTLE FOR SALE.

22,000 wethers on two Darling Downs Stations near

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6000 maddens, Darling Downs, near Dalby

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20,000 ewes, 3 years to full-mouthed prime Downs sheep

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5000 mixed prime Darling Downs

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1700 head store cattle, on the Clarence

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SHEEP STATION, in Queensland.—For SALE, a

STATION suited to a man with small means, district

Darling Downs, 70 miles from Warwick, with 9000 sheep.

Terms cash.

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2000 prime bullocks, near Dalby

5000 ewes, 3 years to full-mouthed prime Downs sheep

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Several choice lots, in New England, Clarence, and

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